

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 43, 50, 94 and 101 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter.

Please amend Claims 1, 19, 38, 44, 52, 70, 89, 95, and 103 through 106 as follows:

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1. (Twice Amended) A response apparatus according to Claim 19, further comprising:

[status acquisition means for acquiring a status;]  
response [content] message determination means for determining a response [content] message in accordance with [said] the acquired status[;], and

said response information preparation means [for preparing] prepares the response information for a response medium in text form by combining [a] the determined response message [corresponding to said determined response content] with an opening or closing phrase that is characteristic of [said] the response medium[; and

response information output means for outputting said [prepared response information to said response medium].

19. (Twice Amended) A response apparatus  
comprising:

status acquisition means for acquiring a status of a machine to be checked;

response procedure determination means for determining a response procedure[s] in accordance with [said] the acquired status of the machine to be checked;

response addressee determination means for determining a response addressee depending upon [said] the acquired status of the machine to be checked;

response information preparation means for preparing response information in accordance with [said] the determined response procedure[s]; and

response information output means for outputting said prepared response information to said determined response addressee in accordance with [said] the determined response procedure[s].

38. (Amended) A response apparatus comprising:

response procedure determination means for determining a response procedure[s] [in accordance with said acquired status];

response information preparation means for preparing response information in accordance with [said] the determined response procedure[s];

response information output means for outputting [said] the prepared response information to a response addressee in accordance with [said] the determined response procedure[s];

response result determination means for determining whether or not a response has failed as a result of outputting [said] the response information; and

re-response control means for, when said response result determination means ascertains that said response has failed, permitting said response procedure determination means to determine a re-response procedure[s] that is different from the determined response procedure leading to the failed response, for permitting said response information preparation means to prepare re-response information in accordance with [said] the re-response procedure[s], and for permitting said response information output means to output [said] the re-response information.

44. (Amended) A response apparatus comprising:

response [content] procedure determination means for determining a response [content] procedure [in accordance with said acquired status];

response information preparation means for preparing response information in accordance with [said] the determined response procedure [content];

2.4/ response information output means for outputting [said] the prepared response information;

response addressee status acquisition means for acquiring a status for a response addressee;

B4 determination means for employing [said] the status at [said] the response addressee that is acquired by said response addressee status acquisition means to determine whether or not a person at [said] the response addressee [is prepared to handle said] can manage the response; and

re-response control means for, when said determination means determines that said person [is not prepared to handle said] cannot manage the response, permitting said response procedure determination means to determine a re-response procedure[s] that is different from the determined response procedure leading to the response which could not be managed by said person, for permitting said response information preparation means to prepare re-response information in accordance with [said] the re-response procedure[s], and for permitting said response information output means to output [said] the re-response information.

52. (Twice Amended) A response method according to Claim 70, further comprising the steps of:

[acquiring a status;]

determining a response [content] message in accordance with [said] the acquired status; and

preparing the response information for a response medium in text form by combining [a] the determined response message [corresponding to said determined response content] with an opening or closing phrase that is characteristic of [said] the response medium[; and

outputting the prepared response information to said response medium].

70. (Twice Amended) A response method comprising the steps of:

acquiring a status of a machine to be checked;

determining a response procedure[s] in accordance with [said] the acquired status of the machine to be checked;

determining a response addressee depending upon [said] the acquired status of the machine to be checked;

preparing response information in accordance with [said] the determined response procedure[s]; and

outputting said prepared response information to said determined response addressee in accordance with [said] the determined response procedure[s].

89. (Amended) A response method comprising the steps of:

determining a response procedure[s] [in accordance with said acquired status];

preparing response information in accordance with [said] the determined response procedure[s];

outputting [said] the prepared response information to a response addressee in accordance with [said] the determined response procedure[s];

determining whether or not a response has failed as a result of outputting [said] the response information; and

determining, when it is ascertained at said response result determination step that said response has failed, a re-response procedure[s] that is different from the determined response procedure leading to the failed response at response procedure determination means, preparing re-response information at said response information preparation step in accordance with [said] the re-response procedure[s], and outputting [said] the re-response information at said response information output step.

95. (Amended) A response method comprising the steps  
of:

BB determining a response [content] procedure [in  
accordance with said acquired status];

BB preparing response information in accordance with  
[said] the determined response procedure [content];

BB outputting [said] the prepared response information;

BB acquiring a status at a response addressee;

BB employing [said] the status at [said] the response  
addressee that is acquired at said response addressee status  
acquisition step to determine whether or not a person at [said]  
the response addressee [is prepared to handle said] can manage  
the response; and

determining, when it is ascertained at said  
determination step that said person [is not prepared to handle  
said] cannot manage the response, a re-response procedure[s] that  
is different from the determined response procedure leading to  
the response which could not be managed by said person at said  
response procedure determination step, preparing re-response  
information at said response information preparation step in  
accordance with [said] the re-response procedure[s], and  
outputting [said] the re-response information at said response  
information output step.

103. (Twice Amended) A computer-readable storage medium according to Claim 104 [in which is stored a response program for controlling a computer to transmit a response], said program further comprising codes for enabling said computer to perform the steps of:

229 [acquiring a status; ]

determining a response [content] message in accordance with [said] the acquired status; and

preparing the response information for a response medium in text form by combining [a] the determined response message [corresponding to said determined response content] with an opening or closing phrase that is characteristic of [said] the response medium[; and

outputting said prepared response information to said response medium].

104. (Twice Amended) A computer-readable storage medium in which is stored a response program for controlling a computer to transmit a response, said program comprising codes for enabling said computer to perform the steps of:

30 29 [acquiring a status of a machine to be checked;

determining response procedure[s] in accordance with [said] the acquired status of the machine to be checked;



B9  
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determining a response addressee depending upon  
[said] the acquired status of the machine to be checked;  
preparing response information in accordance with  
[said] the determined response procedure[s]; and  
outputting said prepared response information to said  
determined response addressee in accordance with [said] the  
determined response procedure[s].

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105. (Amended) A computer-readable storage medium  
in which is stored a response program for controlling a computer  
to transmit a response, said program comprising codes for  
enabling said computer to perform the steps of:

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determining a response procedure[s] [in accordance  
with said acquired status];

preparing response information in accordance with  
[said] the determined response procedure[s];

outputting [said] the prepared response information  
to a response addressee in accordance with [said] the determined  
response procedure[s];

determining whether or not a response has failed as a  
result of outputting [said] the response information; and

determining, when it is ascertained at said response  
result determination step that said response has failed, a re-

response procedure[s] that is different from the determined response procedure leading to the failed response at response procedure determination means, preparing re-response information at said response information preparation step in accordance with [said] the re-response procedure[s], and outputting [said] the re-response information at said response information output step.

106. (Amended) A computer-readable storage medium in which is stored a response program for controlling a computer to transmit a response, said program comprising codes for enabling said computer to perform the steps of:

determining a response [content] procedure [in accordance with said acquired status];

preparing response information in accordance with [said] the determined response procedure [content];

outputting [said] the prepared response information;

acquiring a status at a response addressee;

employing [said] the status at [said] the response addressee that is acquired at said response addressee status acquisition step to determine whether or not a person at [said] the response addressee [is prepared to handle said] can manage the response; and